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REPORT  
No. 2447

## ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF HALOGETON GLOMERATUS

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JULY 2, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. COOLEY, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the  
following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1041]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1041) to provide for the eradication and control of Halogeton glomeratus on lands in the United States, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### STATEMENT

As originally introduced, this bill authorized a general program for the eradication of all noxious weeds. There were two identical House bills, H. R. 1933 and H. R. 2052, on which hearings were held by this committee in the first session of the Eighty-second Congress. The committee felt that the bill as introduced was too broad in scope and contained some other unnecessary authorizations. The Bureau of the Budget took the same position in reporting on the original bills, suggesting that while Halogeton glomeratus constitutes such a serious threat that a campaign against it would be justified, general authority for the eradication of noxious weeds would not be in keeping with the program of the President.

As the result of these various suggestions regarding the bill, the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs amended the bill to limit the authority to Halogeton glomeratus. The relevant portion of the Senate report on the bill reads as follows:

The proposed legislation would establish a Federal policy and provide general authorization for the eradication and control of Halogeton glomeratus which would materially aid in protecting the livestock industry from losses caused by this poisonous weed on range and pasture and other lands of the United States. Annual losses from poisonous plants in Colorado alone are reported to average

about a million dollars, and livestock losses in the range country as a whole average about 4 percent. The States of Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming have reported infestations of Halogeton.

Halogeton is a serious pest to the livestock industry over an extensive area of western grazing lands. Information available to the authorities indicates that this plant is spreading rapidly and immediate attention needs to be given to its control and eradication.

Consciousness of the need for increased yields of foods gives added importance to the necessity for measures to control the destructive capacity of this weed. To combat effectively present or potential infestations in any given area, control measures must be carried on throughout the entire region involved, and all affected properties must be thoroughly treated, to the end that eradication may be complete on all lands where infestation exists.

In commenting on this bill, the Bureau of the Budget stated:

"The threat imposed by the poisonous weed to which this measure is especially directed, Halogeton glomeratus, is recognized to be serious enough to warrant Federal participation in programs for its control and eradication as a hazard to the livestock industry. It is felt that in the absence of threats of similar magnitude, extensive eradication and control programs should not be undertaken in a period in which it is necessary to withhold authorization for new programs not directly concerned with meeting the needs of national defense."

In view of the above recommendation of the Bureau of the Budget, the committee agreed that the bill should be amended to apply solely to the eradication and control of Halogeton glomeratus in the United States. The bill was also amended to embody the recommendations of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORT

At the request of the chairman of this committee, the Department of Agriculture submitted a report on S. 1041, as amended, recommending approval of the amended bill. The letter of the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to Hon. Harold D. Cooley, chairman of the committee, is as follows:

APRIL 28, 1952.

HON. HAROLD D. COOLEY,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. COOLEY: Reference is made to your request of September 26, 1951, for a report on S. 1041, as amended by the Senate, the Halogeton Glomeratus Control Act.

The Department previously reported favorably on H. R. 1933 and H. R. 2052, identical bills, both of which provided for the eradication and control of poisonous weeds, especially Halogeton glomeratus on range and pasture lands in the several States and Territories, and for other purposes. S. 1041, as originally introduced in the Senate, was also identical with the two House bills. These bills declared it to be the policy of the Federal Government, either independently or in cooperation with States, associations, organizations and individuals, to control and eradicate weeds poisonous to livestock on range and pasture lands, irrespective of ownership. They authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to make surveys, to determine control measures; to carry out such measures; to allocate funds to other Federal agencies having jurisdiction over range or pasture land; and, in his discretion, withhold expenditures for control measures in a State until it makes or agrees to make such contributions as the Secretary requires for the same purpose. They also authorized necessary appropriations for carrying out the program but not to pay for property damaged or destroyed in connection therewith.

S. 1041 as amended and passed by the Senate, however, is different from the original bills on which the Department reported. Major changes are as follows:

1. The amended bill is restricted to Halogeton glomeratus.
2. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the purposes of the bill with respect to lands under his jurisdiction and restricts the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to carrying out the purposes of the bill on other lands.

S. 1041, as passed by the Senate, provides authorization for the Secretary of the Interior with respect to lands under his jurisdiction and for the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to any other lands to carry out measures and operations to control, suppress, and eradicate this weed. It is our understanding that the Department of the Interior needs authorization to conduct Halogeton control

on some of the lands under its jurisdiction, although control programs might, under present authorizations, be conducted on other parts of its lands. The statutory authorities of the Department of Agriculture for control of insect pests and plant and animal diseases are not sufficiently broad to support Halogeton control on State, county, and privately owned lands. Present authority is adequate to conduct any necessary research in this field.

However, S. 1041 as passed by the Senate would further provide in section 3 (a) (2) duplication of authorizations with regard to research to determine those measures and operations which are necessary to control, suppress, and eradicate Halogeton glomeratus. This is primarily a plant science problem such as the Department of Agriculture is studying under its broad authority. It is wholly proper for the Department of the Interior to conduct surveys and control operations of Halogeton on lands under its jurisdiction and for the Department of Agriculture to handle such surveys and control on other lands. On the other hand, the Department of Agriculture has the authority to conduct research on this problem and has conducted some research related to it, results of which are applicable to lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, as well as to other lands. There being no need for additional legislative provision with regard to this phase of the problem, it is recommended that the paragraph numbered (2) in section 3 (a) be deleted.

The control of Halogeton is urgent. Halogeton, an introduced poisonous weed, was first identified in this country in 1934 from a specimen taken in Elko County, Nev. It is now known to have become established in south-central Montana, the Bighorn Basin in Wyoming, northeastern California, northern Nevada, Utah, and southern Idaho. It is estimated that infested areas now aggregate more than 1,500 000 acres. Halogeton is a prolific seeder and spreads rapidly. The seed is light and readily disseminated by the wind. It establishes itself where the natural vegetation is disturbed sufficiently to permit establishment and to offer little competition from other plants. Halogeton is extremely poisonous to sheep and cattle and is also an important summer host of sugar beet leafhoppers, the insects that transmit the curly top virus affecting sugar beets and beans.

As pointed out in Dr. LeClerc's testimony at the hearing on September 20, 1951, in answer to the question from the committee, the Department is recommending some provision for research on Halogeton in the fiscal year 1953 estimates.

Since no survey has been made to ascertain the degree of infestation and distribution of Halogeton, it is not possible to present an estimate of the cost of operating a control program on State and private lands.

The Department recommends passage of the proposed legislation, if amended as suggested.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

K. T. HUTCHINSON, *Assistant Secretary.*

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